Annual Report of M.O.H.

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TRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1940

BY
W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1940

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

July, 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1940 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars this Report has been restricted to essential and urgent matters, and is to be regarded as an Interim Report only.

I consider that the health of the Uxbridge Urban District is most satisfactory—you will see in the Report that our birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales and our death rate lower.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA.

Total area of District ... ... 10,237·363 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1940 is 45,670.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

Sex.	*Live Legitimate.*	*Live Illegitimate.*	*Stillborn Legitimate.*	*Stillborn Illegitimate.*	*Total.*
Males ...	438	29	9	2	478
Females ...	398	14	18	—	430
Totals ...	836	43	27	2	908

BIRTH RATE.

	No.		*Birth Rate.*	*Basis.*
LIVE BIRTHS	836	Legitimate	18·305	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
	43	Illegitimate	0·942	
	879	Total	19·247	
STILL BIRTHS	27	Legitimate	29·735	Per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births.
	2	Illegitimate	2·203	
	29	Total	31·938	
TOTAL BIRTHS	863	Legitimate	18·896	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
	45	Illegitimate	0·985	
	908	Total	19·881	

The birth rate for the year under review was 19·881 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 19·203 for the preceding year.

The corresponding figures for England and Wales are 15·15 and 15·0 respectively.

I have to report an increase in the still birth rate from 31·141 to 31·938 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

I have to report an increase in the death rate from 10·073 to 13·64 per 1,000 Registrar-General's Estimated Resident Population.

Death rate for England and Wales: 14·3 per 1,000.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population. Area comparability factor of 1·17	
	1939	1940	1939	1940
Male ...	213	244	—	—
Female ...	208	266	—	—
Total ...	421	510	10·073	13·64

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year:—

Disease.	*Deaths.* 1939.	1940.
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Diphtheria	4	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	2	1
Enteric Fever	—	—
Pneumonia	20	32
Measles (all ages)	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	3	1

Disease.	*Deaths.* 1939.	1940.
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	17	29
Non-Pulmonary	2	3
Heart Disease	111	98
Cancer	66	62
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9	41
Influenza	7	5
Bronchitis	3	27
Kidney Disease	6	15
Appendicitis	4	2
Puerperal causes	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Death Rate per* 1,000.
In Total Live Births ...	33	28	61	69·32
In Legitimate Live Births	31	27	58	69·29
In Illegitimate ,, ,,	2	1	3	69·76

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 58 during 1939 to 61 during the year under review. The rate has increased from 69·048 to 69·32.

NOTE.—The Registrar-General has provided an adjusted figure of births, for the purpose of this calculation, which allows for temporary movements of population.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease.	1939.	1940.
Scarlet Fever	87	112
Diphtheria	40	43
Enteric Fever	2	4
Erysipelas	12	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	26	23
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	3	7
Pneumonia	41	48
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ...	41	31
Non-Pulmonary	6	2
Poliomyelitis	1	1
Whooping Cough	*	18
Measles	*	48

* *Not Notifiable in* 1939.

No age-group has shown more than its normal susceptibility to any particular infection.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There is available a free supply of material for Schick Testing and Immunisation to general practitioners undertaking treatment of their patients who reside in the Uxbridge Urban District, fees being payable by the Council to the doctors in respect of each case treated.

During the year 121 children received treatment under your scheme, and a further 124 were under treatment (not completed) at 31st December, 1940.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS.

No. of Premises Inspected on Complaint of Nuisance ...	175
No. of Premises Inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases	233
No. of Premises under periodical Inspection	225
Total No. of Inspections and Re-Inspections made ...	2,967
Nuisances Discovered and Abated	160
Informal Notices Served	123
Statutory Notices Served	4

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings:—

(*a*) That of the Council, which supplies the wards of Uxbridge and Hillingdon West; and

(*b*) That of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, which supplies the remainder of the area.

During the year 5 samples were taken from the mains of the Council's undertaking and 5 from those of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All proved to be satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the District are inspected several times during the course of each year. There are 30 persons registered with this Council as Retail Purveyors and 23 as Producers.

Twenty licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Seven samples of ordinary and two of pasteurised milk were sent for bacteriological examination, which showed that most of the samples were of a reasonable degree of purity. One, however, showed signs of a tuberculosis infection in the milk, which was a mixed supply drawn from several farms in the Home Counties. Extensive investigations were made but it was not possible to trace the affected animal.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and food premises have been the subject of regular inspection and the conditions are generally satisfactory.

During 1940 the following carcases were inspected:—

Beasts	3
Sheep	10
Calves	—
Pigs	109
Total	122

The following were found to be unfit and were destroyed:—

1 Pig's head.
2 Pairs pigs' lungs.
1 Pig's spleen.

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